

REMARKS

1. Rejection of claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ketcham (US 6,195,589 B1) in view of Henrie et al. (US 6,519,144 B1):

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to overcome this rejection. Specifically, the limitation of “an array of light sensors for capturing a two-dimensional image” is added. These amendments are fully supported in the specification, such as in paragraphs [0032] and [0034]. No new matter is entered. Please note that at the time of application, it was well known to employ “an array of light sensors” in a digital camera.

Ketcham teaches a single photo detector 56 (Fig.1) for receiving light input such as light reflected when scanning a barcode (Fig.3) or light used for communication with a host computer (Fig.2). Ketcham does not teach or suggest an array of photo detectors. The singularity of the photo detector 56 is confirmed by the LED 78 of the host computer 70 (Fig.2) with which the photo detector 56 is coupled for communication. For instance, had Ketcham taught an array of photo detectors (or if such an array is proposed to be obvious), it would be further necessary to include circuitry to determine what combination of signals of the array of photo detectors is to be input into the amplifier 57, for instance. In fact, Ketcham’s circuits of Fig.2 and 3 are in no way adapted to receive a plurality of signals from an array of photo detectors, and the required modifications would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Thus, the applicant contends that the amended claims 1 and 9 including “an array of light sensors for capturing a two-dimensional image” should be patentable over the combination of Ketcham and Henrie et al.

Reconsideration of amended claims 1 and 9 is requested.

2. Rejection of claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ketcham in view of Henrie et al., further in view of Cha et al. (US 6,146,210):

Reconsideration of claims 3 and 11 is requested. Claims 3 and 11 are dependent on claims 1 and 9 respectively and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are allowed.

- 5 3. Rejection of claims 7-8 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ketcham in view of Henrie et al., further in view of Kim (US 6,301,098):

Reconsideration of claims 7-8 and 14 is requested. Claims 7-8 and 14 are dependent on claims 1 and 9 respectively and should be allowed if claims 1 and 9 are
10 allowed.

4. Objection to claims 4 and 12 as being dependant upon a rejected base claim:

Claims 4 and 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include
15 all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim for reasons of record. The applicant notes this allowance, however, reconsideration of claims 4 and 12 is requested in view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 9.

- 20 5. IDS of Taiwan Patent 385016:

The applicant wishes to make of record the document listed on the accompanying PTO/SB/08 form. It is requested that the examiner initial the cited reference on the form, that it be made of record in the application, and that a copy of the initialed form be sent to the applicant with the next communication from the examiner.

25 Taiwan Patent 385016 was cited in communications from the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office on Nov. 25, 2002 with reference to the corresponding Taiwanese application. A concise explanation of the relevance of this patent to this application is as follows.

30 Briefly, Taiwan Patent 385016 teaches a digital camera 100 comprising a photo-taking unit 200 and a removable photo-viewing unit 300. The photo-taking unit

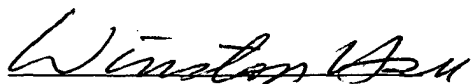
200 and photo-viewing unit 300 function together when mechanically and electrically mated, and function independently when separated. Referring to Fig.5 (block diagram), the following components are indicated as part of the photo-taking unit 200: lens 10, lens driver 52, image driver 54, charge coupled device (CCD) 56, analog-digital converter (ADC) 58, image processor 60, transport group 62, reduced instruction set computer (RISC) 64, status LCD 66, DRAM 68, and flash memory 70. The photo-viewing unit 300 comprises: RISC 72, DRAM 74, flash memory 76, LCD 78, image output 80, and PC output 82.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended to differentiate the present invention from Taiwan Patent 385016. Specifically, the contacts of the second connector are recited as being “directly connected to the array of light sensors for transmitting data captured by the array of light sensors to the first connector”. These amendments are fully supported in the specification, such as in paragraphs [0032] and [0034]. No new matter is entered. In Taiwan Patent 385016, the contacts 21 of the photo-taking unit 200 (image capture device) are not directly connected to the CCD 56, but rather are connected through the RISC 64 and image processor 60. That is, the photo-taking unit 200 has onboard processing capabilities and is independently functional. In contrast, the direct connection limitation of claims 1 and 9 prohibit such independent operation of the claimed image capture device.

Thus, the applicant proposes that the invention claimed in the amended claims 1 and 9 is substantially different from the teachings of Taiwan Patent 385016.

Reconsideration of the amended claims 1 and 9 and the accompanying IDS is requested.

Sincerely,



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